



Sitting shiva for the Students' Society? Or a revival meeting?

Students' Council makes little headway with budgets; most pass scrutiny

by Myles Frosst

Last night's marathon council meeting on budgets rendered inoperative the Students' Society's fiscal policy as agreed upon by these same members at Saturday's lengthy emergency session. The forty-thousand dollar ceiling on dipping into the reserve fund was abandoned de facto after only a fraction of the budgets were passed.

As the balance sheet now stands, with about a dozen of the over thirty budgets passed, the Students' Society will reach its original ceiling in another forty-thousand bucks. One budget alone, however, not discussed tonight, the McGill Players, asks for over thirty thousand dollars.

The big budgets got a cursory reading and prompt passage. The Daily received its entire request of a \$39,539 subsidy. The Women's Union asked for \$14,565 and received \$13,965 after some debate about the Union's aims and purposes. The general opinion was that the clubs came off relatively unscathed.

More important perhaps than

what was accomplished at the meeting is what was not accomplished. The whole question of the referendum on fee hikes and the referendum co-ordinating committee did not arise. This was due to the agreement made on Saturday that the clubs would support the referendum if and when they got their budgets. With so few budgets passed, and so long a time having been taken to pass them, discussion of the referendum appeared futile.

Also undiscussed was Radio McGill's new proposal. This was handed to councillors (those remaining) when the meeting broke up for lack of quorum at 1:30 am.

Yet to be discussed as well is the internal budget of the Students' Society which calls for a deficit of \$170,164. Coupled with the discussion of this budget will be an investigation into the allegations by the Women's Collective Press that the executive mismanaged funds and used contractors who overcharged, as well as an inquiry into the resignation of Mr. Albins, the former Building Manager.

For whatever reasons, it was clear that the executive was bending over backwards to pass with as few cuts as possible all the budgets. Their hope is that the clubs will respond by effectively bringing out the vote in the referendum.

Also, a new note of pessimism, particularly from President Andrew Yearwood, was detected in regard to the proposed new pub. Whereas he had previously been highly enthusiastic, last night he stressed repeatedly that the new pub was still on the drawing board and, in light of the financial picture, would have to be re-examined more closely.

The Debating Union, Film Society, Community McGill, Legal Aid, and many other service groups received their funds and may begin full operation. Council operated without quorum for the last forty-five minutes of the meeting. Quorum was challenged at 1:30 and the meeting was forced to adjourn. The meeting, called for 7:30, did not begin until 8:30. Budgets were not brought up until 9:30.

McGill bookstore prices compare favourably

by Ted Nation

Responding to accusations that the McGill Bookstore charges exorbitant prices, George Ramsay, store manager, said the problems the bookstore faces are "nationwide".

While it is not apparent to many students, Bookstore prices usually run approximately 20 per cent below those of "commercial" stores and are as expensive as those in other University bookstores, according to a Daily survey.

Ramsay gave an example of the reasonable prices the McGill bookstore offers. *Kingdom of Canada* (W. Morton, McClelland and Stewart, 1969) sold wholesale for six dollars. It cost \$7.50 at the McGill Bookstore and for \$10.00 at W.H. Smith's.

The Bookstore, owned by McGill, aims to break even but has made a profit of between 2 and 6 percent in sixteen of Ramsay's twenty-three years as manager.

"We lost money only four times and that was due to inventory shrinkage. In plainer terms that means theft or poor bookkeeping," Ramsay said.

On the question of insufficient book supplies, something that students and faculty are equally unhappy about, Ramsay evaded the issue by saying, "Books are bricks as far as we're concerned. The real selling is done by the publisher in April to the Faculty members and our job as I see it is to act as a warehouse for distribution to the students."

"We place our orders in May which gives us plenty of time to get them by September, but if I have to reorder then for one reason or another it's going to be a long wait," Ramsay added.

The penalties for over-ordering are stiff. Not only must the store pay interest on the \$1,000,000 advanced by McGill, but also pay the return freight charge and the labour charge for

"depriving" the book and returning its invoice.

"In 1971 we bought \$1,500,000 worth of books and sold only \$800,000 so consequently we had to return nearly half our order. This year however, we have \$1,600,000 on order, have sold \$700,000 so far and even with another \$400,000 worth we probably couldn't keep everyone happy," he said.

On the subject of the Bookstore innovations promised by all three members in this year's 'Action' executive of the Students' Society, Ramsay said, "Well, I encouraged that fellow Yearwood to set up a Price Surveillance Committee, but of course nothing ever came of it."

All three executive members were too busy to comment today, though no one "was in a position to say" exactly what they were busy at.

STAFF MEETING TODAY

There is a Dailystaff meeting today at 5 pm in the Dailyoffice. Attendance is compulsory or worse. News reporters and production people, current and yet to be, are especially urged to attend.

DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST SPANISH EXECUTIONS

Montrealers will join in the worldwide protest against the execution of leftists in Spain this afternoon at 4:30 pm at the corner of Peel and Ste. Catherine Streets. Be there.



Stephen Braginetz

The bookstore is located on the main floor of the Samuel Bronfman Building.

classifieds

These ads may be placed in the advertising office at the University Centre from 9 am to 5 pm. Ads received by 10 o'clock appear the following day. Rates: 3 consecutive insertions—\$3.00 maximum 20 words. 15 cents per extra word.

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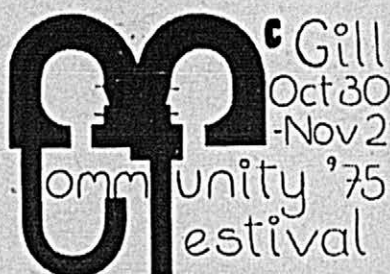
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notice

All our Campus advertisers are kindly advised that the McGill Daily is going to take a break during the Thanksgiving Week (Oct. 13-17).

The paper will resume publication on Monday, October 20th.

The ad office will be open on Oct. 16 & 17 from 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. and the deadline for October 20th is Friday October 17 before Noon.

392-8902 ad office

Comment

Students' society is hurting student interests

by Malcolm Guy

A familiar stench is blowing over campus. On the west side of McGill in a drab grey edifice, the rotting hulk of the Students' Society is entering its 67th year.

In dark and hidden recesses of the Union, Students' Council members are concocting the same unpalatable crap which the Students' Society feeds to its obligatory members every year. A cup of budget crisis and a dash of tantalizing rumours of corruption and mismanagement adds up to that tasty old favourite—"Students' Society a la Charogne."

Students have grown sick and tired of the many blustering opportunists, bleeding heart liberals, who have occupied the Council seats, and with good reason. For it is these people who have epitomized the Students' Society to succeeding generations of McGill students.

The sight of a Students' Society president flailing away in front of a crowd of students about apathy, bankruptcy, and student interests—all in the name of students—has year after year sickened the heart of even the most seasoned Union hack.

But does this need to be the case? Does the Students' Society simply attract mismanagement experts to run it or is there something fundamentally wrong with the present structure of the society? In order to decide it is necessary to start by glancing back in time.

The Students' Society was set up in 1908 by the Administration from suggestions submitted by the Alma Mater Society in 1906. According to the first President, it was seen as a solution to the problem of undisciplined, rowdy students then invading the Edwardian McGill campus.

In 1909 the Society was defined as the only recognized medium between students and the University authorities and the general public and was "to promote social life and academic unity among the students". The constitution ruled that the Society was under the jurisdiction of Senate and the Board of Governors, and the Administration patronizingly agreed to collect the mandatory fees at registration.

Although the constitution has been changed several times since then, the administration has kept its finger in the pie ever since the inception of the Society.

As recently as 1968 a new constitution abolishing Administration control over the Society and establishing representation by population (rather than by faculties) was passed in a referendum only to be vetoed by Senate.

Essentially this means that all myths about the so-called "Independent" Students' Society are just that—myths. The

Students' Society could no more do what it likes than Drapeau can have the baby he should be expecting any time within the next year. If it was to fundamentally oppose the Administration, it would quickly see its source of funds dry up, the Administration-owned Union building turned into an extension of the Management faculty, and several former Council members walking the streets with the RCMP in hot pursuit.

The Administration is quite content to allow the Students' Council to lull students into frustrated apathy. Administrators jump with joy every time the Students' Council disciplines a student or heatedly discusses whether there is some "political motive" behind the latest request for money.

The Council has done a fine job in deterring student interest from major issues, and in fact would make the Alma Mater Society of 1906 proud.

Every year a new set of would-be politicians flaunt them-

Students need an organization to fight the Administration and the government.

selves in front of the student body, promising everything from wine in the cafeteria to clean toilets, with a platform conspicuously devoid of a political position. Every year more council members are acclaimed, the voter turnout dwindles (12 per cent of student body last election), and the engineers attempt to secede. And every year the administration has a quiet chuckle.

For the Students' Society in its present form will go on attracting petty politicians forever and students will go on pumping money into the dying Society only to see it disappear. It all adds up to the fact that changes in the structure of the present Students' Society are inevitable and necessary.

This reorganization will not come about simply by having the students vote themselves a Society fee increase. This is simply a short term measure that will assist the funding of some very worthwhile groups now dependent on the Society.

An organization to represent students will have to identify common affairs in which they all have a stake and link them up with broader social struggles. Students cannot and should not be united under an organization that lacks clearly defined goals that deal with the common issues of students. Students can't be mobilized as a whole around an organization originally set up to "promote

social life and academic unity among the students".

But mobilization of students has taken place in the past with great effectiveness. For example, last year 50 CEGEPs across Quebec walked out to protest loan and bursary cutbacks. At the same time our illustrious Students' Society was planning a bar and conspiring to nudge their buddies in the Administration for a one hundred fifty thousand dollar loan to build a pub to end all pubs.

This year the Students' Council has managed to mobilize students, but only in opposition to proposed cutbacks to Society clubs—probably the only reason for the Society's existence besides the cafeteria.

Also supposed mismanagement and poor treatment of employees has resulted in the resignation of David Albins, probably the best building manager the Society has had. And it has done this all in the name of students.

If the Students' Society is going to be simply a banker, at least it should do it well. This means that it cannot be an organization that undergoes a complete change in personnel every year, and performs its duties in the name of all students.

At the Université de Montreal an organization has been set up (see yesterday's Daily) to "serve students and provide the university's employees with the

best possible working conditions possible."

There is no talk of Services Campus representing all U de M students and fighting for student interest. They realize that another form of organization is needed to do that.

Meanwhile our Students' Society has time and time again pretended to represent all students in their common affairs. In essence, it actually caters only to a small fraction that hangs around the Union, the infamous hacks and the stu-

The Administration is content to allow the Students' Council to lull students into frustrated apathy.

dents who have the time and money to guzzle at Gertrude's.

Our Students' Society and student unions in general, will have to give way to alternative forms of organization—as more and more students are discovering.

This will not consist of catering to little interest groups around the campus as now exists. The Administration will always be able to find careerists and petty administrators to take care of these.

An organization for and by students will need to recognize that the government and the Administration is not really interested in students' needs. The people who run the universities are there to ensure a constant stream of servile highly skilled workers to run the industries.

If students get screwed in the process, it is not the administrators' concern. They are content to let students play harmless games in the Union building, or for the many who don't make it to university, to let them join the expanding rosters of the unemployed.

When the University slashes budgets and when the government makes cutbacks in loans and bursaries, students as a whole need to be organized to defend themselves in their common affairs. To do this the organization will have to be more than our Students' Society.

There will exist a need to have vital services for the students performed well and Services Campus is a good example of an organization that does this better than our present Students' Society and does not fake independence from its administration, nor purport to represent students.

Students don't need an impotent Students' Society which pretends to represent them in their common affairs. They need an organization to fight the Administration and the government.



Enjoyed last night's show? See "Horsefeathers" tonight in L132 and sing-along with the

actionsong, "Whatever It Is, I'm against It..."

MCGILL DAILY

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Editor in Chief: George Kopp
 Advertising Manager: Irina Loewy
 Managing Editor: Larry Black
 Feature Editor: Charlie Clark
 News Editor: Rory Clarke
 Arts Editor: Sasha Cunningham

Contributing Editors: Malcolm Guy
 Andrew Plank
 Business Manager: Lorne Merryweather
 Sports Editors: Oleg Zadorozny
 Michel Zelnick
 Photography Editor: Robert Bellini



Old McGill

letters

nial discontent.

Very few people I know are capable of properly organizing and budgeting their time so as to attain the best compromise among their various undertakings. For a person to take on a position in the SCE as well as school is taking on a bit much. Because the scope of that job and the time it takes to run it conflicts with school, sacrifices in both studies and SCE work must be made. Since school is (or is supposed to be) first priority, the other suffers with the end result being substandard.

In addition, it takes the SCE one half year to acclimatize and another half year to arrange things to their liking. Then the new SCE moves in. The cycle repeats.

To this end, the following should be done: 1) Eliminate the Students' Society and distribute decision-making power

to the faculty student societies. 2) Close up and lock up the Union bldg with the exception of the rooms for the various clubs. The various clubs will be distributed among the faculty student societies and will be financially supported by these student societies. Parts of the Union can be opened and rented for various events, such as Pub-nites, Gay dances, etc.

The above two points may seem to be a bit drastic, but look at what we, as students at McGill, have accomplished. We were given the chance and the money to prove that we could run things all by ourselves. On a scale as large as the Students' Society, it's time we admitted that we are incapable of doing this. Let's scale down to sizes that we are capable of handling.

Plumbers' IQ questioned

To the Daily:

The 'Pot' has never been known for its good taste or intelligence, and has generally been about as intellectual as toilet paper. It was a pleasant surprise to read an article on the front page last week that conveyed an atmosphere of serious journalism and concern for the exploited worker.

Why oh why did the second page have to revert to the level of bigotry with sick 'jokes' such as the St. Jean Baptiste Parade and the Polish ballerina? It is with disgust that one finds that the Pot selects to print such worthless shit when the world abounds with healthy humour. Let the staff of the Plumbers' Pot prove their collective IQ exceeds 58.

B. Schmidt
 Eng U2

Allen Fein Med II
 Bev Davies B.Sc.N U1

Down with society

To the Daily:

Every year a lot of noise is made about what the Students' Council Executive (SCE) is doing wrong. Poor handling of finances, poor policy decisions etc. all contribute to the peren-

hits and guts

by giovanni gray

AND I REPEAT, DESPITE ATTEMPTS TO HALT CONSTRUCTION OF MY VELODROME...



NEVER IN OLYMPIC HISTORY HAS THERE BEEN AN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SUCH GRANDEUR—SUCH GENIUS!



SOME WILL SAY MY VELODROME IS FLAMMABLE, ET DANGEREUX, BUT I SAY...



...LE PLUS GROS OLYMPIC TORCH DU MONDE!!



science

Bourassa's Bill 30 cripples workers

In early September, construction workers at the Olympic stadium struck for a day to protest the hazardous conditions on their job-site. Their protest was sparked by the death of Jean-Marie Lesage, a 35-year old surveyor who was crushed August 29 when an 85-ton beam slipped from its hoist. M. Boileau, the City of Montreal's director of public works told the press that the death was an accidental coincidence of events.

The construction workers who wildcatted know otherwise. Fernand Daoust, trustee of the Construction Trades Union of the Federation des Travailleurs du Quebec (FTQ), replied to the City's engineers through the press, "the large construction projects underway in Quebec have become the scene of numerous fatal accidents because of the frenzied push for higher and higher productivity."

In all of Quebec's industries last year, nearly 300,000 serious accidents and 300 worker deaths from on-the-job mishaps were reported. To supervise all the industries in Quebec, the Department of Labour employs only 250 safety inspectors. As the Gazette pointed out "It would take the government's inspectors at least 20 years to make the rounds of workplaces."

The construction industry, the largest single employer category in Quebec, creates particularly hazardous work conditions. Obviously, the overworked government inspectors could never approach a reasonable frequency of job-site inspections to ensure that

safety regulations are respected at all stages of every construction job. The workers must have the power to defend themselves against employer pressures to ignore safe working practices and speed up the work.

This year, ever since the Cliche Commission recommended government trusteeship of five FTQ construction unions, these unions have been shackled. Working conditions are more hazardous than ever now that Bourassa's Bill 30 severely limits the freedom of action of construction unions.

This Bill was rammed through the National Assembly during the first weeks of May. Strikes had erupted on construction sites throughout Quebec to protest impending trusteeship, and the press speculated that completion of the sports facilities and all other Olympic-related projects was jeopardized. Criticism of Bill 30's repressive clauses was muted by comparison.

Some parts of the Act severely restrain unions from acting directly to change immediately hazardous conditions. Workers and union officers are personally threatened into restraint by a clause which forbids any person found guilty of common assault, mischief, intimidation or conspiracy to commit the above from holding a position as a Union official or job-site steward. A union member is disqualified from holding these positions for a period stretching five years from the date of conviction or release from imprisonment, whichever date is later. Furthermore, this disqualification is retroactive,

applying even to convictions dating from before May, 1975.

A union member who complains too loudly about the safety hazards he experiences can be threatened with charges of "intimidation" by the employer. A conviction on this charge would bar the complainant from union office for five years. Any union official who becomes a nuisance to an employer runs the risk of arrest under any one of the charges outlined in Bill 30. Union officials have been convicted on trumped-up charges before. The prospect of five years enforced union inactivity is enough to silence all but the most stalwart union militants.

Bill 30 outlaws any union, union member or official who "shall order, encourage or support a strike or slowdown of work" before May 1976. The burden of proof rests on the accused union member to demonstrate that he did not "order, encourage or support" any worker protest. On the construction site, this clause presumes a worker guilty until he can prove himself innocent of his employer's charges.

Workers are specifically prohibited from refusing to perform hazardous work, or from refusing to install scab construction materials. The Bill states,

- "32.(a) No employee shall refuse to install or handle materials which his employer orders him to install or handle;
- (b) No union shall oblige or attempt to force an employee to refuse to install or handle materials which his employer asks him to install or handle;

(c) Any agreement respecting the utilization of materials bearing the union label is null *ipso facto*."

The penalty for refusing to perform work that the union contends is hazardous is very severe—"a fine of \$500 to \$10,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues", according to Bill 30.

Bourassa's Bill 30 has permitted the employer to ignore the safety committee that is supposed to regulate safety conditions on each job-site. "In many cases, the employer does not even send a representative to the biweekly safety meeting that is required by law" states Yvan Coulombe, safety co-ordinator for the FTQ Construction unions. "Where the work is speeded-up to meet a tight deadline or where the politicians send in the police to enforce Bill 30, construction contractors can ignore safety reports with impunity."

The Olympic stadium site near Pie IX and Sherbrooke is the most flagrant example of abuse by Bill 30. Union bus-agents are barred from the job-site by the detachment of Montreal police permanently posted at the Boyce Street gate. To gain a pass to enter the site, union officials must seek specific permission from the City of Montreal, COJO, and the responsible consulting engineers. The bureaucratic run-around is a very effective way to stop safety inspections from proceeding. Individual workers are cowed by the threats implied in Bill 30 from objecting to even the most hazardous jobs. When

workers typically labour 60 to 70 hours a week, often seven days a week, the chances for accidents multiply in geometric progression.

Engineers should support the union in its demand for changes in operating procedures at the Olympic sites. Since government inspectors will never be able to verify that safety regulations are respected at the Olympic site, the workers and their union must have the freedom of action to ensure that job hazards are promptly eliminated.

Engineers have a responsibility to ensure that their projects are safe for public use. They should always put this responsibility before the demands of their employers to minimize construction costs and maximize profits.

This public duty applies not only to the completed project, but applies equally at all stages during project planning and construction. Conscientious design and supervision can help reduce hazards. This is one way engineers can ensure public safety.

This article was submitted by Brian Hurst [tel. 842-1948] of Science Progressiste/Science for the People (SP/StP). SP/StP is a new Montreal group that is concerned with social problems relating to the use of science and technology. The group aims to expose the misuse of science and technology by big business and government. It also hopes to demystify science and is working towards putting science in the service of working people.

Unions form united front

Three labour union federations have united against the Quebec government. The Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU), Quebec Federation of Labour (QFL), and Confederation des Enseignements de Quebec (CEQ) joined in a common front to regroup public service employees.

Why is a Common Front necessary?

Instead of having each workplace negotiate separately with the government, the salary demands of all three unions are dealt with at a central table of negotiations, thus strengthening their power.

Each sector, i.e. hospitals, universities, and CEGEP non-teaching staff, negotiates the demands particular to its field

of work at a sectorial table. In this way, no one hospital is forced to give in to anything less than what is demanded by the entire sector.

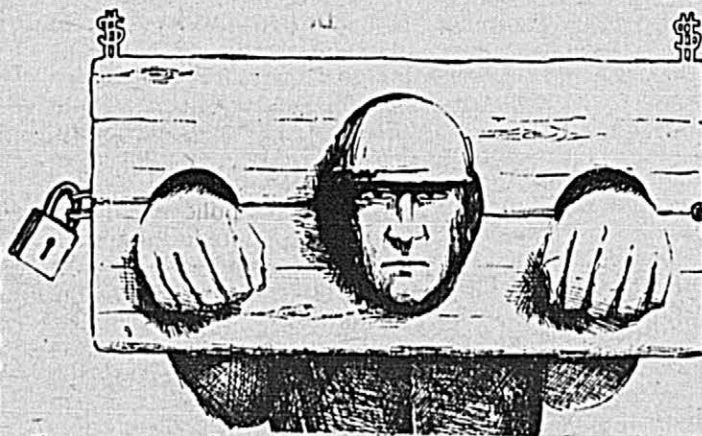
In 1972, 210,000 public service employees joined together in solidarity. Despite arrests, heavy fines, court injunctions, and the infamous Bill 19 which ordered the entire public sector back to work, walkouts persisted in almost all cities in Quebec, from Sept-Îles to Montreal. This created a solid and militant base with which to fight against a powerful boss and its weapons of repression.

In spite of attempts to divide the working class by the bosses along sex, race, and language lines, workers united to protest their being used as "cheap

labour". Women comprised 90 per cent of those earning less than the \$100 minimum weekly salary demanded by the Common Front as they are channelled into traditionally female employment, i.e. clerical, nurse's aide etc.

Immigrants, often unskilled and unable to speak French or English, must accept low-paying and menial jobs. On top of this, they are accused of stealing jobs from native Quebecois and blamed for the high rate of unemployment.

The chauvinism of English Canada towards French Canada has been used by the bosses to sow distrust between English and French. However, the spirit manifested by the Common Front of 1972 only strengthened



ties among workers.

The defiant role that the women played was a significant aspect of the struggle. The necessity for immigrants and Quebecois, French and English to struggle together was clear evidence that worker solidarity was the key. Superficial barriers had been knocked down.

The main demand of the Common Front of 1975 is a minimum weekly salary of \$165. In 1972, this demand was \$100; in 1975, three years later, the minimum is only \$104. This

point is one which arouses the militancy of the highly underpaid public service. 60,000 hospital workers of FAS (Federation des Associations Sociales), teachers of FNEQ (Federation Nationale des Enseignants Quebecois) and maintenance workers in schools and CEGEPs in FESP (Federation des Employes des Services Publiques), all in the CNTU, are putting the most energy into the idea of a Common Front this year.

Worker Support Committee



Lebanon : in search of a national identity

Once again Lebanon is on the verge of civil war. For the fourth time since April, bloody fighting broke out in the capital city Beirut last week between heavily armed irregular forces of Maronite Christians and Muslims. The clashes that have torn the country, leaving perhaps 2,500 people dead and 17,000 wounded, have partly been a conflict between Christians and Muslims, who maintain fundamentally different versions of what Lebanon's identity should be.

Communal fighting between Christians and Muslims is not new to Lebanon. Unlike her Arab neighbours, which fell before the Arab invasion during the seventh century, Lebanon did not become totally Islamized, although it was integrated into the Arab cultural world. Natural mountain fortifications aided the various Christian sects to retain their distinctive ways of life.

Throughout the Ottoman era, Lebanese Christians retained their autonomy and self-rule, for Ottoman troops were unable to conquer the mountain areas. In 1649, the Ottoman Sultan issued a decree permitting France's Louis XIV to become the special guardian of the Maronites.

At the end of World War I, and after the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, France assumed de facto control of Lebanon. Christian supremacy over the Muslims was encouraged by the French government.

In 1920, the French expanded the area of Lebanon to the north and to the east, including the Muslim cities of Beirut and Tripoli.

"Christian Zionism"

Following the structure of Fascist parties, the Maronite feudal families established, in 1936 their paramilitary Phalanges Libanaises Party (Kata'ib). From the very beginning, the Party stood to protect the economic and political interests of the Christian feudal lords.

Reacting to this form of "Christian Zionism", the Muslim Najjadah Party was founded in 1937. Like the Kata'ib, the Najjadah began as a paramilitary organization. Its main objective was to preach Arab nationalism and keep the Arab face of Lebanon.

After Lebanon's independence on November 22, 1943, Lebanonism and Arabism have taken different names and labels. "Lebanism" stood to indicate "Phoenicianism", "Francism", "Mediterraneanism",

"Pro-Americanism", or "Chamounism". But all these labels have centered around the idea of the preservation of a Lebanese national and political entity as a different and separate entity from neighbouring Arab countries.

Arabism has manifested itself in various forms such as "Pan-Arabism", "pan-Islamism", or "Nasserism". These labels have been the symbols of a deep and genuine concern with self-identification with neighbouring Arab countries and association of Lebanon's destiny with their destiny.

Political Formula

The question of the national identity of Lebanon, however, was consistently and deliberately ignored and avoided by various Lebanese governments. Avoiding the determination of Lebanon's national identity was considered the zenith of "practical" statesmanship.

The political formula that sought to consecrate this suspension of discussion on the issue of national identity was termed al-Mithaq al-Wattani or the National Covenant, which emphasized Lebanon's political independence within its existing boundaries and proclaimed the "brotherhood" of all Lebanese of whatever sect.

The Christians recognized Lebanon's Arab face and dropped their allegiance to France, the Maronites' "compassionate mother" and traditional protector; and on their part the Muslims agreed to stand firmly behind Lebanese independence and to give up all demands to unite Lebanon with Syria or any other Arab country.

The National Covenant introduced no change into the internal Lebanese political framework; it emphasized, rather, the communal basis of the republic. In other words, the parties to the agreement have freely endorsed the sectarian principle by which the Ottomans and the French had ruled Lebanon.

Many political commentators had suggested that because of the National Covenant, Lebanon is a happy political phenomenon, unique in the developing world, a prosperous liberal country. It has a parliamentary body, freely elected in the competition of multi-independent political parties. Its politicians are relatively rational and reasonable men. Elections in Lebanon are conducted with a minimum of violence, and freedom of association and freedom

of expression are guaranteed and respected.

Yet this account of the situation in Lebanon does not tell the whole truth, and the whole truth is important if we are to assess the real national identity of Lebanon. In 1949 one of the political parties attempted to seize power through a military coup d'etat. Between 1943 and 1958 there was a breakdown in the constitutional process of succession when the first two presidents sought to amend the article in the Lebanese Constitution (which states that the president's term of office is six years and may not be extended consecutively, although a president could be re-elected after an interval of six years).

The first president, Bishara al-Khourj, succeeded in having a docile parliament pass such an amendment in 1948. In 1952, however, he was forced to resign before his second term expired due to pressure from a movement of popular opposition which almost led to civil war. His successor, Camille Cham'oun, who upon assuming office had caused the amendment to be revoked, attempted the same course when his term was about to end in 1958.

The civil war which took place in the summer of 1958 was partly due to Cham'oun's intentions to remain in office, and he was forced to step down when his term ended.

Breakdown

Why did this "happy democracy" break down? Some suggest that communal self-centeredness and mutual distrust between Christians and Muslims is the main reason behind the present social and political decay. Attachment to kinship and locality, the observers argue, are stronger than attachment to the Lebanese society as a whole. This reasoning is based on the assumption that socially the Lebanese are lumped together into two main divisions: Christians and Muslims. The Christians are "pro-Americans" and believers in "Lebanism"; the Muslims are "Leftists" and believers in "pan-Arabism" and "pan-Islamism".

This division is partially correct. The reality of the situation is that there are major denominational divisions within the Christian and Muslim groups. There are also some social groups that include sectarian divisions and others that cut across these divisions. In terms of economic status, landlords, businessmen, tra-

ders, workers, and farmers encompass both Christians and Muslims.

There are also traditionalists and modernists of the old and new generations cutting across all religious or communal divisions.

The radical and clear-cut cleavage between two different groups which prevails among Greeks and Turks in Cyprus does not exist in Lebanon. Membership in the Palestinian resistance movements in Lebanon, for example, include both Christians and Muslims. In terms of class, the upper, middle, and lower Lebanese classes include Christians and Muslims alike.

Class structure

The Lebanese class structure is characterized by the predominant position of the middle class. It comprises the most enterprising group in society, and has family ties with Lebanese emigrants in many countries throughout the world. It has business contacts with European, American and African countries, and also has very close business relations and even family ties with the neighbouring Arab states.

The small wealthy upper class consists of small numbers of large semifeudal landed proprietors and the big industrialists and businessmen who own and control the larger enterprises in manufacturing, banking, commerce, and urban real estate. This class consists of both Christians and Muslims. The line of distinction between upper class and middle class can not be clearly drawn because of the high degree of mobility between them. Most of the wealthy capitalists and businessmen were members of the middle class and only recently moved to upper class status.

The working class does not enjoy any political or economic influence in the country. Industrial wage laborers constitute a small part of the population and are still largely unorganized, although the trade union movement has been making rapid progress in recent years.

The interests and ideas of the upper and middle classes, consisting of both Muslims and Christians, determine not only the economic policy of Lebanon but also affect the character and operation of the country's domestic and foreign policies. By the very nature of the Lebanese economic system, the Christian

and Muslim working class in industry and agriculture is in no position to play a dominant part in the determination of policy or the control of government administration.

For example the Lebanese upper and middle classes introduced legislation permitting exemption from income tax for a period of six years for new companies that were established to produce new goods or services and which did not compete with existing enterprises.

On the political side, leaders of the Christian and Muslim communities joined hands together and forged the National Covenant. This covenant reflected the interests of the upper Christian and Muslim landed aristocracy; it emphasized the communal basis of the country, and advocated the preservation of the socio-economic and political status-quo. The covenant was a form of "mutual agreement" on the distribution of wealth in the country among the upper and middle classes.

Conclusion

In the light of the above observations, what then is the real national character of Lebanon? At present, Lebanon is a communally fragmented society. It is also stratified with respect to status within each community. The differentiation of income, wealth, authority, and profession does not correspond precisely to the pattern of communal fragmentation. Not all the rich are Christians and not all the poor are Muslims. Further, there is little countrywide class consciousness in the country.

If the present Lebanese government does not become a major distributor of the valued things of life—by introducing vigorous taxation and welfare policy, by taking commercial and industrial initiative, by introducing drastic political reforms—further troubles in Lebanon are to come.

With increased inequality in the distribution of wealth and income, working class consciousness, which extends across the barriers of communal fragmentation, will increase. When this countrywide class consciousness is achieved, Lebanon might find its true national identity.

Ayman Al-Yassini is a political science graduate student, and lecturer of political science at Concordia University.

today

Linguistics Student Union:

There will be a meeting of the Linguistics Student Union today at 1 pm in the Linguistics lounge, fifth floor Samuel Bronfman Building. All students taking at least one linguistic course are members of the Union. New officers will be elected and the budget and speakers program will be discussed. For info 288-6870.

Life in The People's Republic of China:

A slide presentation and discussion on life in the countryside and the cities. All are invited to come and hear about the experiences of a McGill student who recently spent two months in China, including three weeks living and working in a village and two weeks at a factory. Molson Hall common room, 3915 University St. at 8:30 tonight.

Science Progressists/ Science for the People:

First meeting of this school year to plan future activities. All science workers, teachers, students and just-plain-interested people are welcome. 7 pm Union 307.

McGill for Farm Workers:

Organizational meeting today for all interested in supporting the United Farm Workers' boycott of U.S. grapes and lettuce. Union 327, 4 pm. For info 844-0893.

The Biology Assembly:

There will be a meeting today for all those interested in representing Biology students. 10 undergraduate members are required. McGill Biology Students' Union, Room N 2/8, Stewart Biology Building, phone: 392-5765, 4 pm.

McGill Christian Fellowship:

Thank God it's Friday! Prayer meeting for this purpose tomorrow morning from 8:30 to 8:55 am in Union 307.

Latin American Society:

Latin American Society invites you for a general meeting and discussion of new activities. Union 307 at 5 pm. For info 844-7801.

Farmworkers committee:

McGill for Farmworkers Committee first meeting today at 4 pm in Union 327. New members welcome; come one, come all and support the UFW. For info: 849-6846.

W.A.A.:

Only two days left to register for Intramural Singles Badminton. Sign up in Currie Gym or call Laurie at 849-2561.

MFS:

MFS presents Social Comedy Festival. Blue Skies, 7:00 pm and Horse Feathers, 9:30 pm in L132. Admission 50 cents. Info 392-8934.

Hillel: "The current round of peace negotiations: Who's got what and why" with Dr. Meron Medzini, dep't. of International Relations and Communications at Hebrew University. Today, 12 noon at McGill Hillel, 3460 Stanley St. Sponsored by the Committee for Social Justice in the Middle East. Info. 845-9171.

Dept. of Political Science:

Egyptian presidential spokesman Tahsin Bashir will speak about "Egyptian Perspectives on the Arab-Israeli Conflict" 3:30 pm Leacock 820.

Womens' Fraternities:

Come for coffee today between 3 and 5 pm at all womens' fraternities: Kappa Alpha Theta—3563 University, Apt. 17, Alpha Gamma Delta—3563 University, Apt. 10, Kappa Kappa Gamma, 3614 Aylmer and Gamma Phi Beta, 475 Prince Arthur.

Library Workshops:

Today's topic is the Subject Catalogue. Meet at the Redpath Undergraduate Library Info/Reference Desk at 3 pm.

Women's Collective Press:

Women interested in joining or helping the Women's Collective Press, come to the meeting in Union 467, today at 7 pm.

Sigma Chi Fraternity:

Join us today for a good hot lunch and some warm conversation at 1 pm. 3581 University, 849-5965.

around campus

Players' club workshops

Over the next two weeks Players' Club will be sponsoring a series of technical workshops open to all members. Starting this Friday Oct. 3 at 7 pm there will be a lighting workshop given in the theatre. The first meeting will consist of the theoretical basis behind lighting and the workshop will continue on Saturday with practical workshops in the morning and afternoon.

On Wednesday, Oct. 8 a costume workshop will be given at 7:30 pm and the following week on Tuesday, Oct. 14 there will be a make-up workshop at the same time.

These workshops are being given to introduce new members to the facilities that Players' has open for them and to train new technical people for both noon-hour and evening productions. All interested members may sign up for these workshops at Players' Club.

Patricia Morrison

letters

Why all the fuss

To the Daily:

Why the fuss over Radio McGill? I'd like to know exactly how many staffers of RM are actually affected by its termination (in other words, in this elite group) and how much does it cost to run (including

equipment, overhead, etc.)? I'm all for the services that might be provided the McGill Community via RM, but what percentage of the university population is reached? I can't help but draw my own conclusions i.e., RM is a costly, self-serving project that could well be dropped from an already over-worked budget.

Joan Weinberg
U3

Huh?

To the Daily:

Ah! At last! I had been anxiously awaiting the return of comix to the Daily for over a year, (whatever happened to George Kopp anyway???) but at last my patience has been rewarded.

I now can look forward to a whole ninety-two more issues this year full of wit as the Young Socialites/Twerps League (still mourning over the very recent placement of an icepick into a factory job) and the Pablumite Novisionists (whomever they may be) exchange well-intentioned remarks about "paranola".

I shall surely cry the day they find out what WORKERS are interested in, and cure their Trots long enough to do something about it. But even then (as the song goes):

There'll always be a Doonesbury!

Loren Hicks

Gertrude's just isn't fun anymore

To the Daily:

As former, faithful patrons of Gertrude's, we have only one question to ask the new management: What happened? Where is the "Gertie's" that we knew and loved?

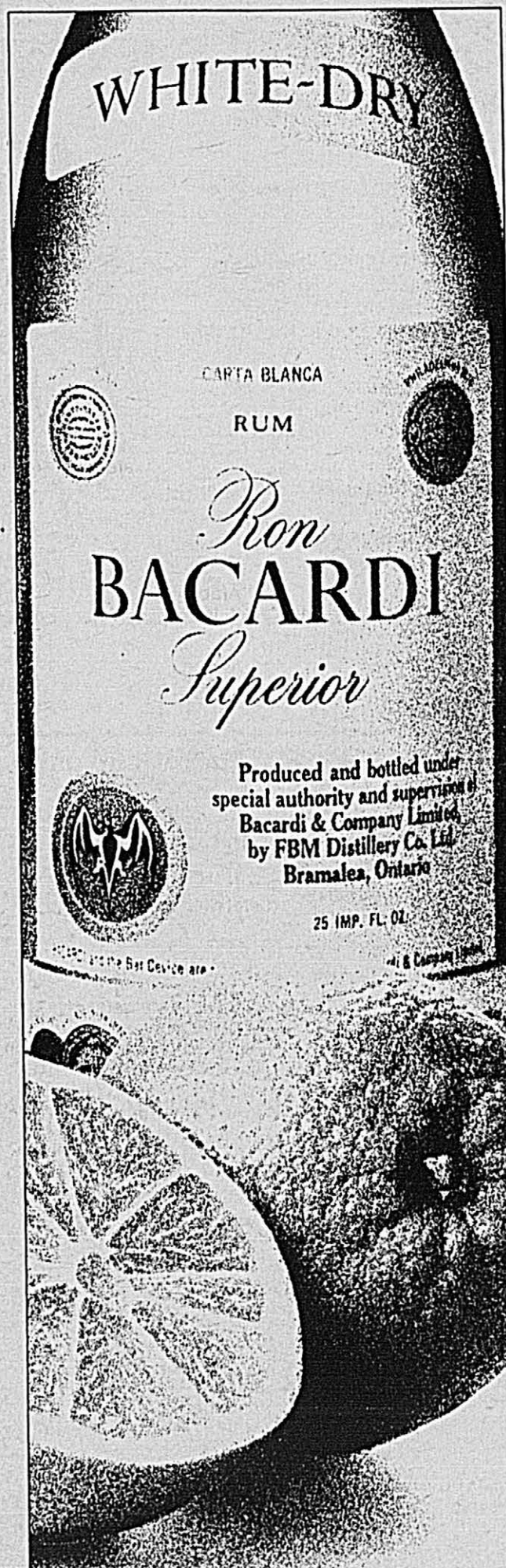
First of all, where are the McGill students? Since McGill I.D.s no longer seem required at the door, Gertrude's is attracting people from outside the University which defeats the very purpose of having a student pub. Secondly, the atmosphere has greatly deteriorated. The music is too loud and not necessarily of "disco" nature. i.e. when the D.J. was asked why he didn't play the Rolling Stones, he replied that it wasn't disco music. Since when is "Honkey Tonk Woman" not disco music?

The service is extremely slow and not efficient. For example, one night we waited 45 minutes before the waitress even noticed us. This could be due to a lack of personnel but even this is questionable.

The physical set up of Gertrude's inhibits social interaction since the partitions for the dance floor divides Gertrude's into two separate entities.

If these problems existed last year at Gertrude's, it was certainly not apparent to us. Gertrude's just isn't fun anymore.

John Blodell
B. Sc. U3
George Carter
Engineering U3



Bacardi and orange juice. Friendly by nature.

The famous sunny flavour of white Bacardi rum, smiling through the breezy freshness of orange juice. Come to think of it, what could be more natural?

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WITH DAVID ROME
archivist, Canadian Jewish Congress

Follow the Jewish Community through the last two centuries as it lands in the port of Montreal until it arrives in Duddy Kravitz's neighbourhood.

Bus leaves SUNDAY, OCT. 5th,
11:00 A.M. from 3460 Stanley Street.
Cost: students 75 cents, others
\$1.50.

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INFO. AND RESERVATIONS:
ROBERT — 845-9171

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entertainment: McGill presents: the BALLROOM BLITZ!

OCT. 4

8 pm

2 BANDS UNION BALLROOM
DISCO-CAF, LIGHT SHOW

(cafeteria)

beer: 3/\$1.²⁵

liquor: \$1.⁰⁰

Oct. 4 Ottawa vs. McGill
Molson Stadium—2 P.M.
Free admission
Door prizes and half-time show

Oct. 3 McGill Redmen Parade
Start: 11 A.M. Roddick Gates

(IN CO-OP WITH M.S.E.A.)

EM



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Come & Share
the warmth and tranquility
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The Candle Lighting Ceremony

ushers in the Sabbath, a day of
togetherness, harmony and joy.

Join us this week
Friday 6:15 P.M.
Sabbath 10:00 A.M.
Sabbath 6:15 P.M.

All services followed by tasty home-cooked meal in
peaceful Sabbath atmosphere!

Singing, dancing, rap sessions!
We ask no admission, only your participation!

CHABAD HOUSE
3429 Peel St.

842-6616

THE CURRENT ROUND OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS: WHO'S GOT WHAT AND WHY

WITH DR. MERON MEDZINI

Lecturer at Hebrew University, Jerusalem in the dep't of International
Relations and communications; Member of Political Science Dep't at Tel
Aviv U.; Spokesman for the office of the Prime Minister of Israel, 1966-7
at McGill Hillel, 3460 Stanley Street

Thursday, October 2nd, 12:00 noon, 845-9171

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Special Speaker Visits McGill on Friday, October 3, 1975

Dr. Erik Ritter von Keuhnelt-Leddihn, a
philosopher, author, humorist, critic and
authority on almost everything political, will
address a McGill group on Friday, October 3,
1975, at 12 noon in Room 219 of the Leacock
Building.

The title of his address will be: "America—
Europe: The Great Misunderstanding."

His background includes being special adviser
to Brockhaus, Germany's leading encyclopedia,
and his energies are directed towards finding
ways to strengthen the Western tradition of
human freedom now under attack from so many
sides.

Admission to the lecture is free, and staff,
students and the general public are cordially
invited.

For further information contact:
The Goethe Institute - 866-1081
The Graduates' Society - 392-4804



McGill Film Society Presents

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L-132

at 7 & 9:30 P.M.

75cents